ASIXTH and LAST

LETTER,

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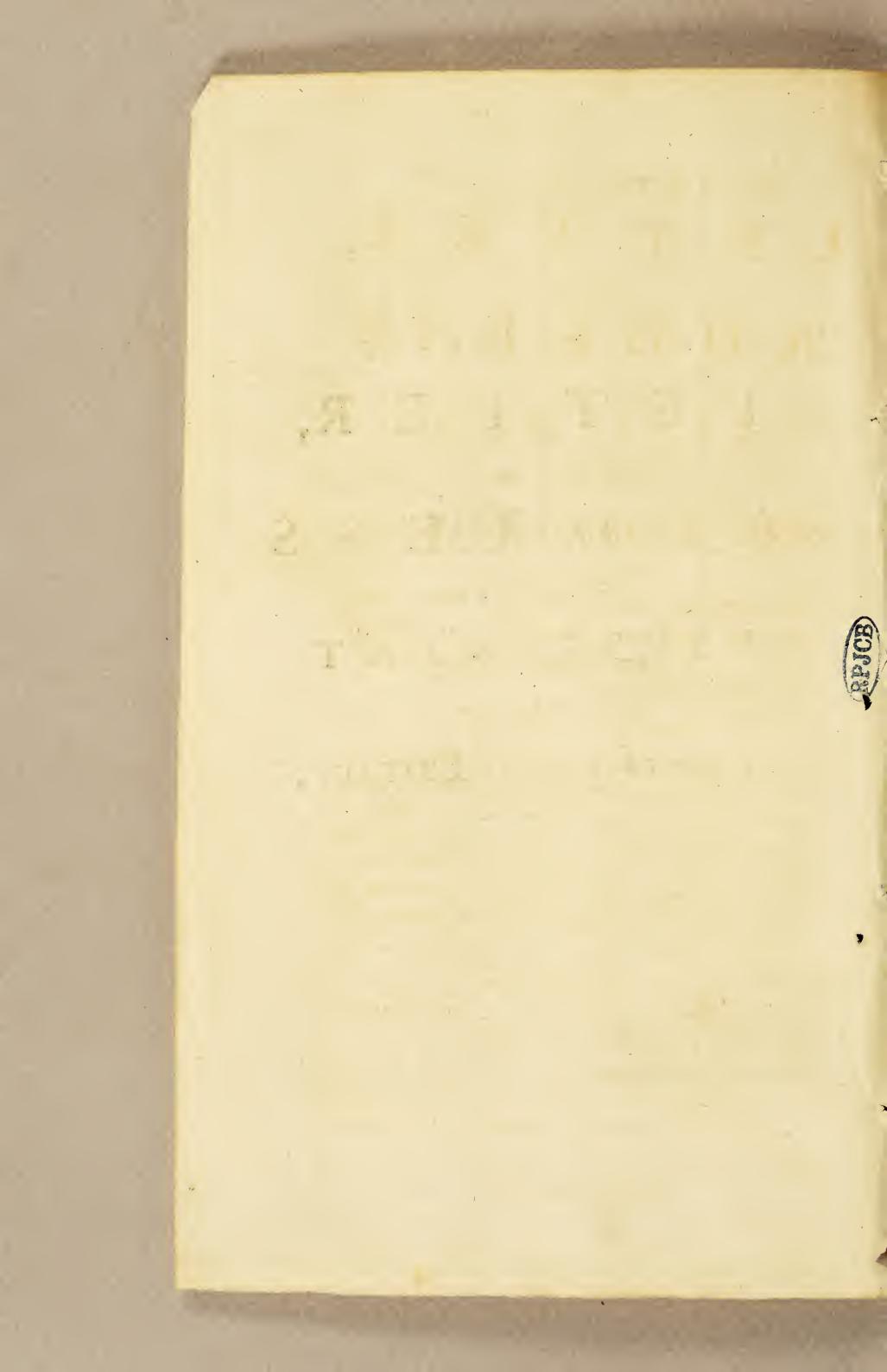
ADDRESS

TO THE

PARLIAMENT

As well as to the

People of GREAT BRITAIN;



A SIXTH and LAST

LETTER,

OR,

ADDRESS

TOTHE

PARLIAMENT,

As well as to the

People of GREAT BRITAIN;

WITH

A Retrospection to All that has been Offer'd on the Case and Cowardice of Admiral BING: and several other New and Interesting Circumstances;

To which, are Subjoined

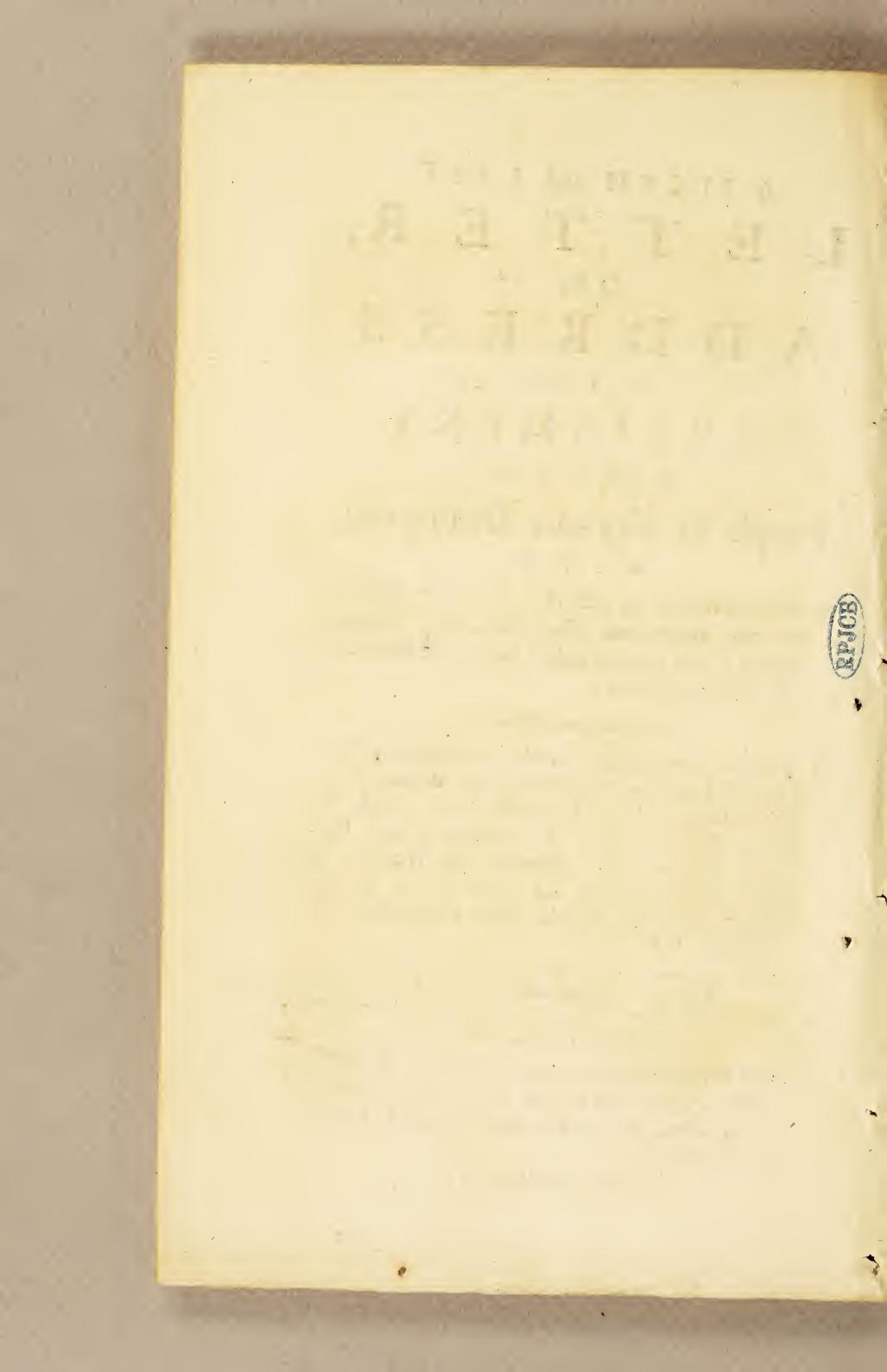
A Proper Compliment to the Liverymen of the City of London, on their Late Behaviour in in the Choice of a Lord Mayor; and, the Demonstrative Utility of Introducing any Particular Foreigners of Character and Wealth, to Settle Amongst Us, on such Terms as the British Parliament should think Equitable, and Politically Just.

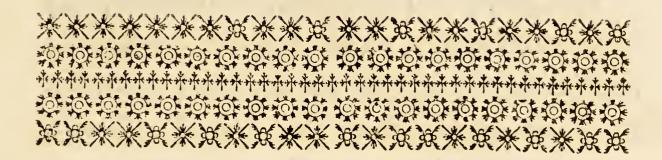
By An Impartial BRITON! Dr. Shebbeare.

LONDON;

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A

Sixth and Last Letter, &c.

Britens! Countrymen! Fellow-Citizens!



REEDOM of Speech and Liberty of the Press, are among other invaluable Publick Bleffings, Two of those boasted Privileges upon which the

SUBJECTS of this NATION, above all Others, have Peculiar Reason to Value Themselves.

B

The

The First, has it's grand foundation, it's Supreme Dignity, and Support, originally handed down, and in the utmost extent, still Preserved to Us, from that August Assembly, that Fountain-Head of all our Freedom and Laws! The Parliament of GREAT BRITAIN.

The full and unlimitted Enjoyment of the latter, is obviously confirm'd, by almost innumerable Productions of Daily and Weekly News Papers, Phamphlets; and indeed, the most Indecent, Scurrilous, and Unjust Libels, Propogated and spread Abroad, to Poison His Majestys Good Subjects.

Libels! wherein, (from an unbounded Licentiousness of Their Authors) we, as daily see our Holy Religion, the Sacred Worship of God! impiously Ridicul'd; Government insolently traduced, and, the Liberty of the Press Perverted, Abused and Prostituted, to every Lewd, Disloyal, and Abandoned Purpose.—

Its Malignant Insluence made a Common Stalking

Stalking Horse to Deceive, Inflame, and, if possible, betray the People in General, into the most Factious and Disafected Sentiments: introducing Feuds, Animosities, and Disentions through every Corner of the Kingdom, at a Time! when Union of Hearts and Hands, among all His Majestys Faithful Subjects are so indispensibly necessary, for the Common Happiness, Safety, and Success, of our Publick Endeavours; An Unavoidable War, carrying on with all imaginable Vigour, (and undeniable Success in the Immense Number and Value of Shipping we have already Taken) in Order to force Our implacable Enemies into Reason, and Obtain an Honourable Peace! so soon as the Arms of BRITAIN shall have convinced them of their Perfidy and Breach of Faith.

And in Truth, such is the Justness of our Cause, (conjoin'd, with the Glorious and Advantagious Alliance of the King of Prussia, who has already made such Noble and Useful Diversions, against the Common

Common Enemy in Our Favour) That, we may with every Moral Certainty rest assured that GREAT BRITAIN will yet be able to prescribe Bounds to the Ambituous, and Lawless Views of all her Enemies, if no Unhappy Divisions among Ourselves do not Prevent it.

This, without presuming to Divine, will, I dare Aver, sooner than we expect, Prove the Case; Notwithstanding the Inglorious Unpardonable Behaviour of One Man in the MEDITERRANEAN: Who (in Contradiction to those Elaborately Invented Strokes of Eloquence and Art, Exhibited in a Late Appeal to The People in His Favour) was, no doubt, Sent There with Sufficient Force (a Fact! which Galissioniere's Running from the Engagement fully Justifies) to have Destroyed The French Fleet; If, He, as Admiral West, and Other Brave Commanders, had Fought His Own Ship, and Signal'd, as He ought to have done, every other under his Command to Such General Battle.

Such a Behaviour, Such an Intrepid Refolution as this, He well knew, was the Actual Business of the Day, when he met the Enemy; No Arguments, No Reasons can possibly preponderate against it: And, Such a Behaviour, He must have been Assured, would also have Endear'd Him to His Royal Master, and every Superior who sent him on that Important Expedition, as well as to his Country in General.

Succeeding Ages, might have had Reason to Honour his Name, and Character, for such a Behaviour, as much as The Present for a Contrary One, will ever hold Him in the utmost Contempt.

The Laurels thus hinted to, (Like those of His Noble Ancestor!) might have Emblazon'd the Name and Character of Byng, had British Courage inspir'd and rouz'd his Soul on that Important Day, Big with the Fate of Britain and Minorca: a Day! wherein

wherein the Gallic Pride of France, only Attack'd by Half the British Squadron, Ignobly Commanded by Byng, (and even without His Striking a Single Blow in the Action) dastardly withdrew, and Skulk'd away for Toulon!

These! are Facts, (Stubborn indeed, as all Facts are) Truths! which His own Letter too glaringly declar'd:

Can, therefore any Thing with Reason be admitted, any Thing with Honour, be urg'd in the Justification, or extenuate the Crime of Him, who neither Fought in the Action, (while Those, within his Power to Assist, were Nobly Fighting under every disadvantage, and Distress) Nor, after the Engagement Station'd Himself, and the Fleet Off of MAHONE HARBOUR, which he might, and ought to have done; in Order to have Succour'd the Besieg'd to the utmost of His Power, at all Events. A Situation! Where several Ships also had Arriv'd, to

His Succour, under Commodore Edgecumbe and Mr. Broderick, in a very small degree of Time, and which actually did happens immediately after His Shameful Retreat to GIBRALTAR.

But, to return to the Observations on the Liberty of the Press, and the Subject matter to which I more immediately intend to Point.

The Use and Abuse of Printing, will readily I Presume, be Allow'd to have very wide, and Essential Differences: an Assertion which perhaps, for a Century Past never was more Extensively verified, than in those Daily Spawns of Licentiousness, For, Against, and Relative to, the very Man I have just before mention'd, and his Scandalous Behaviour in the Mediterranean.

The Use of the Press, from its First Origin, could only be intended to Promote, Promulge, and Publish, the Cause of Virtue, Truth,

Truth, and Rational Knowledge; and, to Discountenance, in every Degree, Falsehood, and Vice, unless from a contrary way of Reafoning, we acknowledge that Virtue! should remain Depress'd and Vice Ride Triumphant.

In Brief, all Human Liberty whatever, as well as that of the Press, Respecting Governments, Persons, or Things, must in their First Constructions, Ends, and Designs, have some Ultimate, Rational, Determinate Bounds, or, Circumscriptions: Otherwise, the General Order, Oeconomy, Peace, Regularity, and Harmony of all Governments, Societys, and Individuals, would, (from the Existence of any Unbounded Liberty, except those of doing Good,) be subject to, if in length of Time, not totally Destroyed, by the Banefull Effects of Licentiousness:

And, indeed, from an Uncircumscribed Liberty of the Press, every Man possessed either of Abilities, or Insolence, would, as Necessity, Humour, Envy, Caparice, Malice, Disapointment, or want of Power, should so Prompt him; Every Man, I say, of Such

Such a Cast, would think himself at Liberty, (which Daily Experience Evinces,) to Insult, Villise, and Reproach the Highest and most Amiable Characters; I had almost said, even Princes! and Governments, as well as Individuals, with Impunity.

And, As Other Slanderers, after Exciting all the Publick or Private Mischief within their Power, Claim an Uncontroul'd Liberty of the Press, or an Unlimitted Right of Speech, as a Screen for their Audacity, and Base Attempts, to Create Popular, or Private Anarchy, and Consusion.

Hence then, it should appear Evident, that, the Liberty of the Press is not, nor ought to be, so Ungovernable and Unbounded, as Some People, to Serve their Own Sinister Purposes, not only infinuate, but, Boldy Publish; with a View to Poison the People, by every False and Ungenerous Representation, of the Situation of Our Foreign and Domestic Affairs.

C

The Liberty of the Press, can only Merit our Encouragement, and regard, in matters of Truth, Justice, Entertainment, Instruction, and all General or Particular Topics, tending to the Universal Happiness, and Right Knowledge of Mankind: as on the other Hand it should, by every Honest Loyal Man, be discountenanc'd, Curtailed, and properly Detected, wherever the Propogations of Vice, Immorality, Scandal, and Disaffection against Government, or Wrong Suggestions against Those in Power, appears Dispersed, either in Books, Papers, or Phamphlets, as before Observ'd.

As a stronger Proof of these Assertions, Every Man in Private Life, has, by the Establish'd Laws of Equity, and Common Justice, a Right to Damage, against Those who Unjustly Desame his Character, or, Publickly, or, Privately Wound his Reputation and Good Name.

And

And, on the same Principles, would it not be highly unreasonable, nay, unjust, and absurd, to suppose, that, any Man, or, Set of Men, should, with Impunity, be suffer'd to Insult, Villise, Expose, and unjustly Traduce a Government in General, or, Any One of its Ministers, or Members, without the Exhibition of a Single Fact? or, the least Shadow of Truth to justify so Ignominious a Proceedure.

If, the Reputation of every Peasant, in all Cases of Defamation, is defended by our Common Laws; Surely, the Characters of Peers, Prelates, and other Nobility, should be esteemed equally Sacred and inviolable? Not to be Sported with by Rude Authors, Unjust Suppositions, and Artful Invendo's?

It, therefore behooves every Man of Honour, or Generofity, who dare stand forth in the Exertion of an Honest Spirit, to Detect, and Treat with due Contempt, on all Occasions,

fuch

fuch an Envenom'd, Infolent Behaviour of Libelling, wherever he finds it prevail.

The Present Moments, in a more particular manner, require Union among Britons, and, Those who Aim at the slightest Endeavours to Disunite Us (Be They who They may,) are Enemies to Britain! and The Illustrious House of Hanover.

This every Honest Briton May, and Ought to Assert, without the Epithet of being Pronounced a Bully, Blusterer, or Sycophant; And The Present Time, I again Repeat it, Solemnly Demands Britons to Unite! One, and All, Like the Macedonian Phalanx of Old, in Order to Curb the Insolence, and Ambition, of all Our Foreign, or Domestick Enemies; If any of the latter shall appear amongst Us.

From These Slight Observations on the Abuse of the *Press*, I am naturally led to Offer my Humble Opinion, wherein, I imagine *True Liberty* to Consist.

This

This then, I Take to be True and Rational Liberty; When Freeborn Men, having to advise the Publick, may Speak, Or, Publish Their Sentiments Freely, in All They have to Offer: Paying, (as all Men ought to Pay,) a Due Regard to Characters, Decency and Truth.

Consistent with these Principles, I take the present Occasion (tho' in this Misscelaneous Manner,) To Complement The Worthy Livery Men of London, on their late Choice of a LORD MAYOR; To Those in a more Particular Manner, Who, fo Voluntarily, and Unfolicited Exerted Themselves in the Preservation of the Publick Peace of the City, by Voting in Favour of Mr. Alderman Dickinson, to be Returned, as He justly is to That Chair: In Opposition to the most unreasonable, and unjustifiable Party-Spirit, ever Set on Foot, in Order to have Inflam'd the Respectable, Opulent Body of His MAJESTY'S Valuable Subjects, The Loyal Loyal Citizens of London, with the most Ungenerous, and Unjust Sentiments.

On my own Part, tho' an utter Stranger as to any Personal Knowledge of Alderman Dickinson, and only acquainted with His Known General Good Character, I shall very Frankly Confess my Reasons, Why! I imagined that Gentleman ought to be Returned to the Dignity of Your Chief Magistrate.

First, Because, I really believe Him to be a Man of Honour, Probity, and Abilities, Equal to the Serving of His King and Country, and the True Interest of this Great and Flourishing City, in so High, and Important a Trust: Especially in the Present Critical and Serious Conjuncture. A Period! (made so by the Persidy of Our Enemies,) When, nothing can more Essectually Deseat the Dangerous Designs, and Persiduous Attempts of the Avow'd Enemies to Our Religion, Liberty

berty, Commerce, and the Present Happy Protestant Succession; or, Damp the Force of any Intestine Discord, than an Inslexible Union and Harmony amongst Ourselves; The Only Genuiue Characteristics of Loyal Subjects and True Britons!

Secondly, Because Alderman Dickinson (tho' the Fact to Serve a Turn, was Publickly and Scurrilously Denyed) gave His Vote for a Militia Bill, fo foon as any Proper, Regular and Solid Plan, agreeable to every County (if such a Bill must Pass) can Maturely be Settled by the King, Lords, and Commons, in Parliament: And, because he was not Against a National Expedient, Universally Approv'd for Bringing Over for Our Common Safety, and Defence, a certain Number only of His Majesty's Hanoverian Troops, and some Hessians, (Whose Subsidiary Pay, and Other Incident Cash, is undeniably Spent amongst Us) At a Time when some Thouof Our Own Regular as well as New

New Raised Forces, Were Embarquing from GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND for the Security of Our American Colonies on that Continent; and this Kingdom was also, in Eminent Danger of an Invasion, from Our Enveterate Enemys, Whose Vicinity, Power, and Implacable Enmity, made such a Recourse (however insolently Treated by some Particular People) absolutely Necessary, at the Time it was Debated aud Agreed Upon: And indeed, besides Parliamentary Approbation, it was a Step likewise Applauded, and Pointed to, in some Affectionate, and Dutiful Addresses to Our Sovereign (Whose Troops, They so immediately are) Particularly One, from The Loyal Citizens of Bristol, Presented by Their Worthy Representative Mr. Nugent.

Therefore the Bringing Over Those Troops, to Spend Their Subsistence Here, and to be Ready, on any Emergency to Assist Us was justified in the manner above represented;

Notwithstanding

which have been taken on that Circumstance; And Permit me to Add, in Open Contempt of The Resolution, and Vote of Parliament.

Out of an infinite Variety, that might sarther be Produced, I shall Add but One Circumstance more, with regard to the Baneful Influence, which has too long diffused itself, from the Abuse of the Press; Not Only by Every Artful and Iniquitous Endeavour to Infect the Minds of The People; but, as Notoriously to Injure Our National Interest, Honour, Reputation, and Publick Happiness, both at Home and Abroad, from the Meer Effects of, [and no other than] an Unbounded Licentiousness of Publick Exhibitions, in News Papers, Pamphlets and Libels; Propogated not only in Our Metropolis, and Interior parts of the Country, but, with Great Industry, to the Remotest Corners of the Kingdom; with Intention D

Intention to do Publick Mischief, and Dissurite Us, as before Observed.

The Particular Circumstance I shall Mention was, viz. About the Close of the Last Session of Parliament, in Fifty Two, Several Foreign Jews of Character, and Great Fortunes, made a Modest, and very Rational Request to Their Friends and Relations Here, Whose Fidelity to The Present Happy Establishment; Peaceable, and Good Behaviour; Publick Utility, as to Their Fortunes, spent amongst Us; And Their Constant Readiness, and Alacrity to Risque Them as They have done on all Emergencies, in Favour of the National Credit, and Government of BRITAIN, are Facts, which cannot with Honour, or Honesty be denyed.

Several Opulent Foreign Jews, about The Time abovementioned, Applyed to Their Friends in London, in the Hope of being Permitted, [which to People of

of Character and Real Fortune, none but the most Impolitic Nation ever will Refuse, 1 to come over with their Effects and Settle in England, on such Terms as The British Parliament should be Pleased to Suffer in Their Favour! And give me leave to Say, in Their Favour Only; (Not to have been an Act of General Naturalization, as was most Malignantly, and Falsely Suggested) For on the very Face of That Act it was Manifestly Evident, That no Other Sort of Jews were, Or, Possibly could be intended to Participate in such an Act; The known Expence of being Naturalized, if nothing more, demonstrably Proved it.

Had That Act Then, Continued a Law, What can We Suppose, at this Hour, would have been the Consequence? Unknown to a Single Jew in The Universe, Unconnected with any Sort of Interest in Their Affairs, I, at That

That Time Thought, and still continue to Think, This, (beyond all Art, Infolence, or Inhumanity to Prove the contrary,) must naturally have been the Case; That some Few Rich, Peaceable, Jew Families from Abroad, with every Shilling of Their Fortunes, and Effects An Extreme good Security for every Man's Behaviour, under any Government upon Earth] Some Additional. Rich Jew Families, I say, had in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Six, been Settled amongst Us; To the Happy Increase of our Publick Funds, as well as Circulating Private Wealth, from the incontestable Truth of what They unavoidably must have Spent, and Exhausted amongst Us; And to these Circumstances I may also Add, that no People Whatever, [if Report even of their Enemies be True,] Pay Higher, or Better to all Tradesmen, and Artificers with whom They are Concerned.

Thia

This, then, had Obviously been the Case, beyond all resonable Contradiction, if That Act had not been, I will Say, Bullied away, from the meer Effects of a Licentiousness of the Press, in Declamations, Falsehoods, and Harangues, which had insufed a kind of Popular Frenzy throughout the Nation.

Nay, such a Wild, and Misguided Extravagance, was spread Abroad on that Occasion, that many of His Majesty's Good Subjects, [like Children Scared by an Old Wifes Cry, of Raw-Head and Bloody-Bones] were Bugbear'd out of their Reason at the Time; And from the most Egregious Insinuations, made to believe, That a Few Jew Families, of Character and Fortune, being added to about Five Hundred more, Settled in the Capital of this Kingdom, would [in Allusion to the Similar Insinuations against His Majesty's Hanoverian Troops,] at once have

have Overturn'd Our Religion, and Liberties, as well as Swallow up the Properties, of more than Seven Millions of Protestant Christians, Who Inhabit the Island of GREAT BRITAIN; Our Houses were to have been Entered, Our Wives Ravished, Our Daughters Deflowered, and Our All Plandered, and Destroyed, by about Fisteen Hundred Fighting, Cruel, Blood-Thirsty Feros? - These! were the Shameful, Licentious, Impolitic, and Unjust Infinuations from the Press, in order to Poison and Inflame the People against That Act (the most Eligible that could possibly be Offer'd for Aggrandizing the Wealth of Our Publick Funds, by the Riches which such Jews must naturally have brought Over with Them; And fuch are the Similar Arts still carried on to Delude the Multitude, with regard to the present System of all Our Publick Affairs. But Can We, Worthy Country-Men! (I had almost said like Dupes, Amused by Bottle Conjurers,) Suffer Ourselves

Ourselves to be so Idly, Ignorantly, and Grosly Imposed upon, and Deceived? I will say Betrayed! from an Adherence to Our True Interest, and that Inflexible Zeal, in which We ought Unitedly to persevere towards the Best of Kings, Government, and Administration; Who have, in the most Calamitous Times of Publick Danger, and Open Rebellion, Exerted Themselves in the Cause and Defence of their Country. - A Rebellion! Which, from the Notorious Libels previously sent Abroad, as a kind of Prelude, or Forerunner, to Infect and Divide Us, as much as from any Circumstance whatever, Actually prompted Our Enemies to a Belief that we were quite Ripe to have Joined Them in Their Iniquitous Schemes in Forty Five and Six. An Administration, I say, Who in that Period, as well as on all other Emergencies have done Their Utmost, as Men of Honour, Probity, Abilities, and Resolution, to Serve Their King and

and Country: And Who, still are pursuing the most Powerful and Efficacious Measures Abroad, and at Home; in Order to Preserve Us in the Happy Enjoyments of all Our Publick Bleffings, And, Who (I Dare Affert it.,) will yet Convince Our Enemies, that BRITAIN shall participate the Fruits of an Honourable and Glorious Peace; Notwithstanding the Ignoble Behaviour of One Man, (Of whose Conduct and Courage, They no Doubt, Entertain'd the Highest Opinion, when They Sent him Out,) has, for the present, Deprived Us of an Island in the Mediterranean, Valuable indeed, as it was to Our Commerce, in those Seas, A Missorfortune which, however Afflictive in the Present Moments, We may yet Gloriously Retrieve, if Our own Animosities and Divisions, instigated by Artful Men, do not prevent Success.

With Respect to Admiral Eyng, I cannot avoid once more offering this Conclusive Remark, on His Ignominous Behaviour; That in Fact it is to Him, and Him Alone, We in a great Meafure, if not Wholly, Owe the Loss of the Important Fortress of MINORCA; and in Plain Honest Truth, the National Ferment also which has on that Unfortunate Circumstance, so long prevailed; as well as every Unjust Reproach He has industriously strove to bring upon Others, (if He cou'd,) in order to Screen His own Pufilanimous, Perfidious Cowardice, and Breach of Honour, and Publick Trust; And indeed, the whole of His Conduct Abstracted from all other points or Persons whatever,) can only terminate with every Honest, Thinking Sensible Man in these plain Matters of Fact, wehether he Fought, or even Endeavour'd to Fight His own Ship, and Several Others, when he had the Enemy in his Power? but on the contrary, whether he did not in a notorious manner, prevent Other Ships from Fight-

E

ing? And, why, after such Ignominious Behaviour, He did not immediately Station the Fleet Off Mahone Harbour; Which he might, and ought to have done, as before Observed?

Let Us therefore Worthy Britons! Unite, against all Venal, Corrupt, and Ill design'd Attempts, which by different Authors upon this Man's Account, as well as other Unnjustifiable Circumstances, are so Lavishly Propogated, with a View to Divide Us; Fomented and Carried On, by the most Abandoned Liberties, and Licentiousness of the Press. — An Instrument! which however Valuable, in its General View, yet from its present Perversion, and Abuse, may (like Fire or Water) from Wrong and Wicked Insinuations to Inflame; or, on the contrary, from Right and Honest Reasonings to Moderate, (especially in troublesome Times,) become, either the Worst Enemy, or the Rest Friend to the True Interest and Caufe Cause of Our King and Country, and all that is Dear and Valuable to Us, and Our Posterity. — In a Word, the Mischiess arising from Libels, or an Abuse of the Press to Spirit Up, and Inslame a Multitude, to False Resentment, are Inumerable: Murders Masacres, and Universal Consustion, have often flow'd from it, in many European Countrys; besides our own; which, give me leave to say, might, with great facility be Prov'd, from Authentic, and very late History, if, an Address of this kind, wou'd permit me to Descend to Particulars.

I shall however, Conclude the Whole of the Present short Miscellaneous Remarks, (Exhibited with the most Disinterested Views to Unite all Honest Britons! at this Important Crisis, when every Cool Head, every Warm Heart, and every Active Hand, are so indispensably wanting, to Assist in the Common Cause? I shall Close the Whole, I say, with an Allusive Exhortation from the Author of a Late Appeal to the People.

Heaven

Heaven! forbid! That the Integrity of Englishmen, and Britons, should be deceived by the Wiles of Men, (such as the Libellous Authors I have thus pointed to,) Who do not possess one praise worthy Qualification, (which indeed no Man can have, who aims at Disuniting Us; or, Their Judgments perverted by Crasty Representations against Those in Power.

But Let Us Unite, — One and All, as the Macedonian Phalanx before observed, in order to Curb the Insolence, and Persidy of our Implacable Enemies, who have oblig'd Us to Arms; and with our Sincerest Invocations for the Divine Assistance, to Cooperate in Conjunction with our own Deterimned Union, (particularly in The Grand Inquest of the Nation) Force Them into an Honourable and Lasting Peace.

Thus Prepar'd; Thus Strengthen'd, Thus United. Quis Dividet.